

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## Platform Committee

3/16/2017

### RESOLUTION 2017.10

#### A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

##### *Relating to the Oregon Right to Rest Act*

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Democratic Party of Lane County, according to the DPLC Platform of 2016, to encourage our representatives to "*pass legislation to decriminalize homelessness*"; and

WHEREAS, lack of sleep causes negative effects, including emotional distress, depression, mental illness, physical impairment, accidents, injuries, chronic health conditions, and forgetfulness. These issues are made worse when people don't have a permanent home, as they are often also cold, wet, and under extreme stress; and

WHEREAS, people who are well rested have the time and energy to focus on accessing housing, healthcare, and community, instead of dealing with the negative health impacts of sleep deprivation; and

WHEREAS, criminalizing resting and sleeping in tents and structures, forces people to sleep in riskier spaces that are less visible to the public. Sleep and rest without adequate shelter from the elements, is devastating to mental health, physical health, and often proves fatal because people are less visible to those who could help if an issue arises and further from necessary resources; and

WHEREAS, the cost of criminalizing homelessness is not just the economic cost of our criminal justice system, but also the human cost of the trauma and stress it causes people who are unhoused, its disproportionate impact on oppressed communities, and the interference with the exercise of civil liberties and protection of civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the costs of criminalizing homelessness are much greater than housing and services, particularly because criminalization traps people in a cycle (i.e. jail to streets and back again) that is difficult to escape. A better solution that actually works is permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, HB 2215, the Oregon Right to Rest Act, has been introduced in the Oregon legislature

by representatives including long time legislative champions of better health care and civil rights and a former police chief;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. To support HB 2215, the Oregon Right to Rest Act, which prevents some kinds of discrimination against houseless people in public spaces and affirms human rights to engage in life-sustaining activities, like sleeping and eating.

SECTION 2. To contact the chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary and our Lane County legislative delegation as appropriate to communicate our support.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,  
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, March 16, 2017**

Signed:

X \_\_\_\_\_ .                      X \_\_\_\_\_ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary